

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the comments set forth fully below. Claims 1-24 were pending. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-24 have been rejected. By the above amendments, Claims 1, 12, 23 and 24 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-24 are now pending.

Objections to the Specification

Within the Office Action, the Specification has been objected to because within Paragraph 48, another application is incorporated by reference, but the application number is missing. By the above amendments, this paragraph has been amended to include the appropriate application number.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 12, 14-16 and 20-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,411,771 to Aotake ("Aotake"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Aotake teaches a picture processing apparatus. An MPEG1 real time encoder board generates index data as an evaluation value representing the complexity of a picture. A scene change parameter representing the degree of a scene change occurring in the picture is then calculated from the index data. The scene change parameter is associated with a scene change pointer. The scene change parameter and the scene change pointer are recorded as an index in an index file. An MPEG system stream output by the MPEG1 real time encoder board is stored in an MPEG file separated from the index file. [Aotake, Abstract] Aotake also teaches utilizing a personal computer with an embedded MPEG1 real-time encoder board. The personal computer uses application programs for editing, recording, reproduction in addition to MPEG decoding of pictures and other picture processing. [Aotake, col. 8, lines 20-26] However, Aotake does not teach storing an encoded bitstream and then retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes.

In contrast to Aotake, the present invention is directed to a system and method for timeshifting the encoding and decoding of a compressed audio/video bitstream. The compressed audio/video bitstream is encoded and stored. After a period of time, the encoded bitstream is retrieved and decoded. [Present Specification, Paragraph 0018]

The software-based timeshifting system includes two main components, an encoder and a decoder. The timeshifting system receives an analog or digital signal at a signal input. The analog signals are received and encoded by an encoder system and are then stored in storage or a transmission medium. The encoded signals are transferred to a decoder system. Then, decoder signals are transferred to video and audio output. The timeshifting system accepts a variety of different input signal formats, including but not limited to, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and digital video. [Present Specification, Paragraph 28 and the accompanying Figure 1b] Furthermore, the timeshifting system is able to perform timeshifting using a variety of different coding schemes and system formats which include, but are not limited to MPEG-2, MPEG-4, digital video, JPEG and Motion JPEG-2000. [Present Specification, Paragraph 52] As described above, Aotake does not teach storing an encoded bitstream and then retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a method. The method of Claim 1 comprises encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, storing the encoded bitstream, retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach storing an encoded bitstream and then retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach utilizing a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 12 is directed to a system. The system of Claim 12 comprises an encoder for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, a storage medium for storing the encoded bitstream and a decoder for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach a decoder for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach a coding scheme for encoding which is selected from a variety of coding schemes. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Claims 14-16 and 20-22 are dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 14-16 and 20-22 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 23 is directed to a system. The system of Claim 23 comprises means for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, means for storing the encoded bitstream, means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and means for decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach a coding scheme implemented by the means for encoding is selected from a variety of coding schemes. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 23 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

The independent Claim 24 is directed to a computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed on a processor, perform a method for timeshifting the encoding and decoding of a bitstream. The system of Claim 24 comprises means for encoding a compressed domain bitstream utilizing a coding scheme selected from a variety of coding schemes, means for storing the encoded bitstream, means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time and means for decoding the retrieved bitstream. As described above, Aotake does not teach means for retrieving the encoded bitstream after a period of time. Aotake also does not teach a coding scheme implemented by the means for encoding is selected from a variety of coding schemes. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 24 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 2 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,270,829 to Yang ("Yang"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 2 is dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 2 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 13 is dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 13 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 6 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,135 to Suzuki ("Suzuki"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 6 is dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 6 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 17 is dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claim 17 is also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 7, 8, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aotake in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,455,684 to Fujinami ("Fujinami"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 7 and 8 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 8 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 18 and 19 are dependent upon the independent Claim 12. As discussed above, the independent Claim 12 is allowable over the teachings of Aotake. Accordingly, Claims 18 and 19 are both also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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